

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

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BERKELEY 4, CALIFORNIA

March 14, 1956

Dr. Rosalind Franklin
Birkbeck College Crystallography Laboratory
University of London
21 Torrington Square, W.C.1
London, ENGLAND

Dear Dr. Franklin:

I have a bad conscience in not having answered your letter of January 7; this was in part due to my difficulty in digesting all the conflicting data. I had previously attributed the deficit in -SH groups (as indicated by several methods, one of which is Hg analysis) to autoxidative loss of the thiol, rather than as evidence for a subunit size appreciably different from 18,000. I still prefer this interpretation, really, because chemically all others are difficult to visualize and require bonds which have not yet been shown to exist in proteins.

Maybe in a year or two the various analyses and interpretations will again be in phase. Many thanks for sending me the two M.S. I am preparing some more Hg-protein aggregate for you. Its behaviour is rather complex, with a tendency to aggregate to an insoluble state at the slightest provocation. I do not yet know in what state it might be best to send it to you.

Sincerely yours,



H. Fraenkel-Conrat

HFC/ma